

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-26 and 48-65 stand withdrawn; claims 27-30, 37-39, 43, 45, and 47 have been amended; and new claims 66-69 have been added. Applicants present claims 27-47 and 66-69 for reconsideration.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 47. Applicants have amended claim 47 to place it in independent form. Applicants submit that claim 47 now is in condition for allowance.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 USC §112, ¶ 2, as indefinite for use of the term “loop-like.” Applicants have amended claim 30 to replace “a belt loop-like structure” with “a loop structure.” Applicants submit that this amendment obviates the rejection under 35 USC §112, ¶ 2.

Claims 27 and 29-46 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by Cone (USP 6,543,846). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 27, as amended, defines a child vehicle seat that includes “a connection member having a flexible loop portion.” Applicants submit that Cone does not teach or suggest such a flexible loop portion. According to the Office Action, the loop portion is provided in Cone by belt length adjusters 22, 122. Cone’s belt length adjusters are not flexible; rather, as applicants understand Cone, they are formed of rigid metal and/or plastic. Cone discusses an alternative embodiment in which the tether second end 34 is not attached to an adjuster, but instead is attached to a ring (not shown). See Cone, col. 5, ll. 36-46. Cone, however, does not teach or suggest that this ring is a flexible ring. For at least this reason, applicants submit that Cone does not anticipate claim 27 or its dependent claims 28, 29, 31-42, 44, and 46 under 35 USC §102(e).

Claim 30, as amended, defines a child vehicle seat that includes “a connection member comprising a loop structure molded into the child vehicle seat to provide a loop

portion through which the securing belt can be slidably disposed.” Cone does not teach or suggest such a loop structure. According to the Office Action, a loop structure molded into a vehicle seat is shown in Figure 7 of Cone. However, Figure 7 merely shows a storage receptacle 50, riveted or otherwise attached to a side of the seat 10 by a fastener, that can serve as the anchor point 516 for the tether first end 32. The storage receptacle 50 is not “molded into the child vehicle seat” and does not provide a loop portion “through which the securing belt can be slidably disposed.” For at least this reason, applicants submit that Cone does not anticipate claim 30 under 35 USC §102(e).

Claim 43, as amended, defines a child vehicle seat that includes “a connection member molded into the child vehicle seat, the connection member forming a loop portion through which the securing belt can be slidably disposed.” Cone does not teach or suggest such a connection member. As stated above, Cone’s storage receptacle 50 is not “molded into the child vehicle seat” and does not provide a loop portion “through which the securing belt can be slidably disposed.” For at least this reason, applicants submit that Cone does not anticipate claim 43 or its dependent claim 44 under 35 USC §102(e).

Claim 45, as amended, defines a child vehicle seat including “a connection member including a first end unitarily formed with the seat body and a second end formed with a snap connection.” Cone does not teach or suggest such a connection member. For at least this reason, applicants submit that Cone does not anticipate claim 45 under 35 USC §102(e).

New claim 66 defines a child vehicle seat that includes “a securing belt having first and second free ends, the securing belt also having first and second latches at the first and second free ends, respectively.” Cone does not teach or suggest first and second latches at the first and second free ends of the securing belt. In Cone, one latch is attached to a free end 19 of belt 18 and the other latch is attached to a looped section 17 of an intermediate portion of the belt 18. Although Cone describes elements 17, 19 as “ends” of the belt, as applicants understand Cone, “end” 17 actually falls somewhere along the length of belt 18 and not at a free end of the belt. For at least this reason, applicants submit that claim 66 and its dependent claims 67-69 are patentable over Cone.

Applicants have amended claim 28 to change "latch system" to "child vehicle seat" to comport with the subject matter of claim 27 from which claim 28 depends. Further, applicants note that the minor grammatical amendments made to claims 29 and 37-39 do not affect the scope of these claims and were not made for reasons related to patentability of these claims.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 CFR 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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